



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 14, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary Deb Haaland
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear President Biden and Secretary Haaland,

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposals by Burnett Oil Co., Inc to drill in Florida's Everglades¹.

Members of the Florida congressional delegation have written to the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service regarding this issue before². We echo these sentiments and renew our convictions encouraging your administration to conduct a full environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for these proposals and deny any operations permits needed to advance any new oil drilling sites within the Everglades.

Congress is investing billions of dollars to restore the Everglades under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Act; to allow oil drilling in the Everglades would put these investments in direct jeopardy. There is fierce local opposition from the Seminole Tribe and other local communities. The recent California oil spill is the latest example of the irreparable harm oil drilling can have to our communities and environment. For these reasons, we believe the proposed oil extraction activity should not be authorized. We thank you for your full and fair consideration, consistent with all applicable laws and regulations, to this issue.

Sincerely,

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

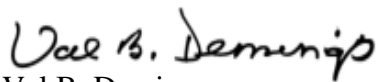
Al Lawson, Jr
Member of Congress

¹ Burnett Oil Company, Inc. has submitted two applications to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection seeking Clean Water Act § 404 permits to fill in wetlands in Big Cypress National Preserve for oil well pads and access roads (Application Nos.: 323836-004 and 397879-002). It has also submitted related materials to obtain operating permits from the National Park Service, but the Service has not yet released this information to the public.

² <https://www.naplesnews.com/story/news/environment/2021/05/05/florida-congress-members-call-end-oil-drilling-big-cypress-national-preserve/7411163002/>



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Member of Congress



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Theodore E. Deutch
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Lois Frankel
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Charlie Crist
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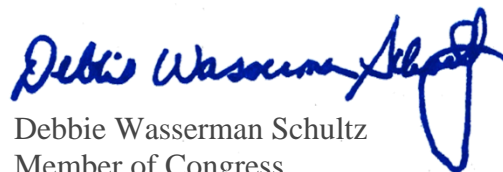
Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz
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